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and as the General Manager has requested the Government to communicate to him, the names of the members, this Council do recommend to the Government to communicate to the South Indian Railway, the name of one person elected by this Council to serve on their Local Advisory Committee for a period of two years from 1st November 1947."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' That as the South Indian Railway have, in accordance with the decision of the Railway Board, reconstituted their Local Advisory Committee making provision for two members to represent the Madras Legislature—one from the Legislative Assembly and the other from the Legislative Council—on the reconstituted Advisory Committee, and as the General Manager has requested the Government to communicate to him, the names of the members, this Council do recommend to the Government to communicate to the South Indian Railway, the name of one person elected by this Council to serve on their Local Advisory Committee for a period of two years from 1st November 1947."

The motion was put and carried.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" With reference to the motion regarding the election of one member to the Local Advisory Committee passed by the Council just now, I am to state that nominations should be handed over to the Secretary before 5 p.m. tomorrow, 20th September 1947. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary. If the number of candidates nominated exceeds one, there will be an election between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 22nd September 1947. The election will be by the ordinary method and not by the single transferable vote.

" Tomorrow being penultimate Saturday, all the nominations can be deposited in a box which will be kept in the Secretary's room. The nominations will be scrutinized on the next day."

IV.—DEBATE ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE—cont.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The debate on the food problem will now be resumed. The Hon. Minister is aware that notice of an amendment has been given by the hon. Member Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu. The amendment is a long one. It has been roneoed for supply to members. The member will move his amendment, and the discussion will go on."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" May I point out, Sir, that there is no resolution as such before the House. The food debate is meant to enable Government to place the food position as it exists to-day before the members of this House. A discussion has been invited so that members of the House will be entitled to give their suggestions, their opinions and their advice as may be necessary with regard to what the Government should do in dealing

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11-45 with the food problem. So, when there is no resolution as such
a.m. before the House there cannot be an amendment. Therefore, what I would suggest to the hon. Member is that he could consolidate all his amendments into the form of advice or criticism of the report and submit them to the House. Government would certainly take them into consideration and do what it thinks necessary. So I do not think there is any scope for an amendment to be moved."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think there is a definite motion before the House; for the Leader of the House moved that the food situation in the Province be considered."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"Inasmuch as he has made a statement to the House, that itself is a resolution."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Is it not possible for the House to consider this amendment along with that definite motion and vote upon it?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not know the position, Sir. There was a similar thing last time and you allowed it."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Yes. Anyway, when there is a motion before the House, namely, that a particular situation be taken into consideration, I do not see why it should not be possible for any hon. Member to move an amendment."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"But how can an amendment be moved when there is no regular proposition?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"There is a motion."

* SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, last time . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Before the hon. Member proceeds further I would like to know whether he would be satisfied with speaking on his amendment without asking for a division."

* SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"No, Sir, I want to move it and the purpose of my amendment is to ask for a division of the House on it. (Laughter.) I was disabled from doing that last time, because there was no resolution. Long before the note on the food situation was sent to members, I sent up certain questions to be answered in this House. Those questions were written by me on 3rd September. They were forwarded to the Hon. Minister for Food, so that he might give the information at the time of the food debate. The questions I asked and which must be in the hands of the Hon. Minister on the 5th, 6th or 7th September are as follows:—

' Will the Hon. Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the quantities of rice, ragi, cholam, cumbu and wheat supplied by Government for rural rationing in each of the districts of the Province during 1945-46, 1946-47 and till the end of August or at least till the end of 15th August 1947 and the loss to the Government, if any, by reason of difference of price for procurement and for sale; and

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(b) the quantities of rice, ragi, cholam, cumbu and wheat supplied by Government in the several municipalities of the province and other strictly rationed areas in the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and till the end of August 1947 for the year 1947-48 and the loss to the Government, if any, for such supply by reason of the difference in price paid for by the Government and collected by the Government?'

These questions were forwarded to the President as ordinary questions to be answered, and because the food debate was going on they were forwarded to the Food Minister. Even yesterday I asked for figures and they were not given."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" May I remind the hon. Member, that I have replied those questions? "

* SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Yes, but no figures were furnished. It is enough if even now the figures are furnished. Am I to believe that even ten days' time is not sufficient to give the information. I will tell you why I am anxious to have the figures. Last time when these figures were asked for, it was said that rural rationing has broken down. That is the first thing. When a member has asked for an information, is not ten days' time sufficient to furnish the information. In a matter of this kind even two days' time is sufficient, and the Hon. Food Minister has no excuse to withhold the information.

" I will now pass to the resolution before I take up the amendment. The reason, why I am anxious to have the figures will be obvious shortly. One important fact in this statement has not come to light, in the true light that it deserves. What is the central fact in the food situation to-day? The figures furnished for 1945-46 give complete figures for procurement. We know how much Government procured and how much Government paid for. In 1945-46, we got in all, imported rice, procured rice and millets, all aggregating to 20 lakhs of tons. Of this 20 lakhs, the Government of India gave us 6 lakhs. Now this happened when the ration was ten ounces. That is, we procured 14 lakhs of tons, and we imported 6 lakhs of tons. You also remember that 1945-46 was a lean year.

" Now, let us see what we have got in 1946-47. It has been budgeted for 18·26 lakhs, whereas the previous consumption was 20 lakhs. And it is here the snag comes in. Even with the reduction of food ration to 8 ounces, we get a total consumption of 18·26 lakhs. For this 18·26 lakhs, the imported food comes to 2·26 lakhs, whereas in 1945-46, we had to import 6 lakhs. In 1946-47, we have imported 2·26 lakhs; and we have lost 3·74 lakhs of tons of food. I do not want to go into details. The central fact is we had imported 6 lakhs in 1945-46, and now we have an import of only 2·26 lakhs. So, we have a deficit of 3 lakhs on our imports. To that extent, we are thrown on our own resources.

" Another thing I want to point out is this : our consumption quantity of imported food from Government of India has been reduced from 20·75 to 18·26 lakhs this year. Even at that rate Government say, they must still procure 2·81 lakhs of tons of rice.

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This is the snag, I wish to point out. Now we have to proceed upon solid facts, and for that we can take the 1945-46 figures as the basis. The rest of what is called target is all mere arithmetical calculation. What has been procured in 1945-46 is 13.54 lakhs of tons. This year too, we can expect that amount by procurement, because Chittoor, Chingleput and North Arcot have nearly supplied 1½ lakhs of tons, as in the past. Then, on the basis of last year's procurement figures, there will be a shortage of 1.43 lakhs of tons; and thus on the whole there will be a wide gap between the procurement figures of last year and the moderate cut made by the Government of India in their imports. I am submitting this for a purpose.

12 noon. "Sir, I am submitting this on purpose. Now, we get the fundamental fact, namely, that there has been a cut of 4 lakhs of tons from the Imperial Government. Even after reducing the ration to eight ounces we get the fact, taking into consideration the procurement we made last year, that there will be a deficit of 1.43 lakhs of tons. So it is a critical time I say it, I own it. But the question is how has it been dealt with? What is the colour that has been given to it? Before going to it I shall invite the attention of the House to the fact that in 1945-46 out of a total procurement of 13.44 lakhs of tons you procured 6.22 lakhs of tons from the Northern districts surplus areas. You procured the remainder from the other areas. Nearly half the procured rice of 1945-46 came from the surplus areas of the Northern districts. There was no outcry against those areas during the year 1945-46, that they did not supply or they hoarded. On the other hand the facts show that the northern surplus districts gave nearly half of the total rice procurement last year."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Just a moment. I see that nearly 12 hon. Members have given their names, and they want to speak. The debate is to close to-day and we are to rise at 5 o'clock. We have nearly three and a half hours before us. So I do not think any Member can take more than 15 minutes."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—"Being the mover of the amendment . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"You will be given 20 minutes."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"May I know, Sir, to-day being Friday, whether we are not rising at 1 o'clock?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The House will rise at 1 o'clock and then meet again at 3 p.m."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—"I am not anxious to speak, Sir, if the House does not want me to speak. This is a question relating to food and I have to deal with figures . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I do not think the hon. Member is justified in saying that the House does not want to hear him. I am just informing the House that a dozen people have given their names and they want to speak on the resolution and that

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this debate must close to-day. Since we are sitting the whole day, I do think that we would be justified in sitting beyond five o'clock. I am giving the information in advance so that you may be as brief as possible and give opportunities for all to speak. I do not think anybody can take my remark amiss."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" I am sorry, Sir. I am only submitting that because I have a resolution also

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is why I am giving you 20 minutes."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" I will try my best to be brief, Sir, I shall only say this : At page 5, the Hon. the Food Minister makes the following observations :—

" There was a general failure of millets in the upland areas of the Circar districts and rice was smuggled to those areas and sold at very high prices. People in those areas could afford to pay heavy prices as they were making large sums of money by raising industrial crops like tobacco. It is not possible to say how much rice was lost for Government procurement in this way but there is no doubt that it was considerable."

This is the remark made with regard to the Circars here and in the analysis that is given here at page 9 the surplus districts are given, namely, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore and Tanjore, as though the only surplus district in the South is the Tanjore district. I challenge the Hon. Minister to say why South Arcot and Trichinopoly districts are not shown as surplus while in all the statements made by the Board of Revenue they are shown as surplus districts. Why were these two districts left out of this category? They are not like the potential surplus districts of North Arcot and Chingleput. I do not mind them. South Arcot has 5 lakhs of acres and Trichinopoly has 4 lakhs of acres and they must have excess to give much more than Nellore or Guntur and yet these are not shown. I have a suspicion as to why these have not been shown. The Circars are being impeached while the surplus districts of Chingleput, Trichinopoly and South Arcot have not been included. And here we have a leader also in the *Hindu* of the 12th September saying that the Circars were not doing their bit. I do not want to tire the House by reading the leader. Then there is this news found in the *Express* of the 12th instant about a case in the Circars : " Mob in quest of rice delays train for hours . . . A mob of nearly 1,000 persons who are said to have started in search of rice entered the Vetapalem railway station and got into the already-overcrowded Rajahmundry Passenger without tickets. Many of the persons were found perched on the roofs of carriages and on the couplings. The train was delayed for nearly three hours. The Stationmaster requisitioned police help. The Circle Inspector of Chirala proceeded to the station with a posse of constables and pulled out the persons who had forcibly entered the station. The station is being patrolled by Reserve Police to prevent a repetition of the occurrence. The mob, it is learnt, consisted of people who were proceeding to Machavaram to get rice as no rations are

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available in the localities. Crowds of people with headloads of rice purchased in the blackmarket travel daily to and from Nidubrolu station without tickets. They come mainly from Singaraya-konda, Ongole, Vetapalem and Chirala, for the purchase of rice in the blackmarket as rations are not available in the localities.

"Sir, the *Express* writes this and in the *Hindu* also you find the statement that the mob gathered there. That is why I ask the question how much was supplied to these areas. Sir, is this a case of blackmarketing? Sir, this is a question of starvation because they cannot get their rations. Therefore they go out and come back with headloads. Sir, even now there is a Deputy Inspector-General of Police stationed in Guntur and the stations are being patrolled from Masulipatam to Bezwada to find out people carrying on what are called headloads. These are the people who are called gangsters. These are the persons against whom you want to employ the police. Do you call this sabotage? I ask: Are you justified in making these remarks with regard to the Circars? The Circars gave you nearly half the rice last time and now when they are in difficulties you want to stigmatize them. Sir, really the question is not one of hoarding. The hon. Member for Guntur is not here. The hon. Member for Ellore is there and the hon. Member for Nellore is there. I want to know what is their idea. Is it merely to employ the police to bleed people in order to get their rice for other districts or for equalising what may be called the resources for the whole district? That is the question. Then it is said, Sir, that they want to abolish rural rationing and to have only what you call municipal rationing. (An hon. Member: 'All rationing') Is it all rationing? Then how much are you going to give for each district. Will it be 8 ounces or is it to be 10 ounces. Are you going to leave it for competition in the rural areas who produce the rice and no competition for the urban areas? Is that your idea? What is the programme suggested with regard to rationing which you want to introduce and with regard to that which you want to avoid? Sir, time is short and I do not want to waste my breath with regard to these things. The question is plain and simple. Is it a question of what can I say, I will not say 'maliciousness'—a twist being given by saying that the Northern Circars are really what is termed 'behind the game' and that the southern districts are not behind the game. Sir, that is an unfortunate statement that should not have been made, and taken up. Sir, you can at least be thankful for the help and you should make no such aspersion, especially a responsible member of the Cabinet, whether it was approved by the Cabinet or not I do not know. Sir, I leave it there and I do not want to pursue the matter further.

"I now come to the amendment that is standing in my name. In the first part of it I want the price to be increased to Rs. 8 per maund. The time is short and I will speak only about two things. The first thing that the hon. Members should bear in mind is that all along the price calculation has been made upon the lowest standard price figure of 1939. You know that the Agriculturists

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Relief Act was passed in 1937. Then there were the depression. The price of paddy was very little in 1939. Taking that into consideration and on that basis the Board of Revenue had arrived at the figures as Rs. 4-2-0 per bag of paddy and Rs. 2-1-0 per maund of paddy. Sir, I do not want to read from the Industries Report because there is no time. The fact is there that the last depression figures have been taken and we have got Rs. 6 per maund. All I ask is that it should be Rs. 8 per maund, i.e., Rs. 2 more than what might be called the present rate. The question is how did the Board of Revenue come to fix the price. Sir, it is the Board of Revenue who fixed the fair prices in the surplus areas of this Province in relation to the cost of living index in the pre-war years of paddy and other essential commodities. On the one hand the price of essential commodities other than rice is given and on the other hand the price of rice has been worked as is found in the appendix II annexed. It will be seen from the appendix that the fair price fixed for paddy in the present conditions is much higher than the existing prices. It is not the fair price that you have been giving, the difference ranging from Re. 0-12-1 per maund in the case of South Arcot and Rs. 1-7-5 in Chingleput. That is what the Collectors say. The price at which rice is now taken is lower than the fair price even taking the 1939 price as the average. On an analysis of the cost of production of paddy the Director of Agriculture also says the same thing. Therefore on all these data supplied by the Collectors and the Director of Agriculture an increase of Rs. 2 per maund is justified.

“ Another thing which I want to place before you, Sir, is with regard to the cost of living index. If you take the 1929 figures it will be a different thing altogether. But that does not matter. What are the comparative figures. Sir, for food apart from rice in the year 1939 it was 102. It is now 472. That is five times. Your price is less than even one and a half times. The other food articles than rice get 4 times more. For rice you give only one and a half times. Sir, clothing stands at 520. Miscellaneous is at 365. Sir, while you are giving 500 per cent increase for other articles you are giving only 175 per cent increase for rice. There is no justification for it.

“ Now what is the price outside this Presidency? In Cuttack they are selling at more than 300 per cent. Why should the price of rice in this Presidency be the lowest in the whole of India. Why should the Government of India want to keep it like that? Can people with one acre of land or 2 acres of land or even 10 acres of land make any profit at all? 12-15
p.m.

“ Sir, there is a class of politicians called Sunlight Soap politicians. When Sunlight soaps first came in they were advertised as follows: ‘ No care, no wear, no tear.’ Similarly the consumers and the services get their cash. They are prepared to spend 4 or 5 times for other articles but not for rice. Why? I want that we should be done with Sunlight Soap politicians. When other food articles are selling at 300 to 400 per cent and when other articles are selling at 500 per cent, what is the justification to limit the price when you come to rice to 150 to 200 per cent?

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" Sir, I am going to call the House to a division on this question, because food is above politics. I ask, Sir, is it above politics for procurement only and not for prices? The other industries have got reserves, but agriculturists have no reserves at all. When you publish in the papers that Government will give a loan of Rs. 300 for digging wells, you get a number of applications. These poor agriculturists have not got even Rs. 300 for digging a well. When you say you give a loan or a bonus for something else, immediately you get a number of applications. This shows these people have no reserves at all. And are you going to build the reserves of this vital industry by keeping the prices to the lowest level?

" I now come to my amendment. With regard to the first part of the amendment I may say, I don't own one acre of land though I come from an agricultural family and belong to Chittoor district which is an agricultural district and have affiliations in Kistna district which is a deltaic district. I must say, Sir, that the present prices might have been given by the Moghul Empire or the British Empire but not by a popular Government."

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" I should just like to know, according to the prices suggested by the hon. Member, by how much the present prices per Madras measure will be increased? "

* SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" If the price per maund is increased by rupee one, the price of one Madras measure will be increased by one anna more and if the price per maund is increased by Rs. 2 more, the price per Madras measure will be increased by 2 annas more. For a family of five persons, the extra cost would be Rs. 2-6-0 per mensem. The question is: Is this increase going to ruin the urban population?

" The next part of the amendment is that electric connections to wells and supply of electric pumps, etc., be fixed as the first and if necessary the sole function of the department concerned for such supply and maintenance. I do not want to elaborate this point. What is the use of digging wells without having electric connections? The report for 1946 shows that only 10 to 15 wells were connected with electricity. The Government must see that many wells are electrified.

" The next part of the amendment is—

- (3) That the thermal scheme for Nellore be taken up instantly while simultaneously proceeding with laying of connections to villages and that electricity be made available first to villages before June 1948 and not to urban areas until all the villages are completely connected and that any lack of material for carrying out 2 and 3 be supplied and made up by transferring from urban areas.'

There is no use of shelving it. What is the Minister for Agriculture doing? He must fight the Minister for Industries and see that all electric connections are given only to agriculture. All urban connections must be uprooted. These people want paddy and at the same time want electric lights. They cannot have

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both. So I suggest that in regard to the Nellore Scheme, all the villages must be connected first before connections are given to towns like Nellore and Gudur.

“ The fourth item of my amendment is—

‘ (4) That oil engines, tractors and other implements in stock and to be procured be delivered in the first instance and if necessary only to ryots applying for the same.’

“ The question is how many tractors and engines were procured and to whom were they supplied? My hon. Friend Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar is an agriculturist and he knows what trouble there is in getting these things.

“ The next question is about the urgency of the drainage schemes in the delta areas. So many acres of land have been lost in the deltaic areas for want of proper drainage schemes.

“ The next part deals with the supply of water to second crops in West Godavari. Now they open one channel for some time and shut out other channels. I think Sir, during this crisis they should open all the channels. (An hon. Member: They call it a rotation scheme.) Why don't you make it a full scheme, I ask? The engineers were doing it under the old Government and even under the new Government they are doing the same.

“ The next part deals with the prevention of the flood havoc caused by the Budamen and Ramilen, etc., in the Kistna and Godavari deltas.

“ The next item is that adequate number of factories should be established for the production of ammoniac and phosphatic fertilisers.

“ Then I want an embargo should be put on the export of groundnuts and finally that the Government should be asked to report on the action taken on the above matters to this House at the next meeting of the House.

“ These are the measures which I have suggested. I shall finish my remarks in one or two minutes. In dealing with a situation like this, in dealing with pressing matters like the food situation in this province, what do you expect the Government to do? In England when they have a crisis like the food crisis, you find Sir Stafford Cripps boosting exports, the Chancellor of the Exchequer cutting down imports and the Minister for Agriculture setting out to make improvements in other directions. But what does the Minister for Food, when faced with this serious food situation say? The Hon. Minister says in his statement :

‘ This will have to be done as soon as possible. . . . This is our immediate task. We should address ourselves to it with a will. I have visited several districts already and propose to tour as many more as possible to explain the seriousness of the situation and enlist the support and co-operation of the public.’

Speeches are delivered over the radio. Have you ever heard of fighting famine by speaking over the radio? Is that the way

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Sir Stafford Cripps is solving his problem? There is our Minister for Agriculture and he will pardon me when I say that he should give up his attention to prisons and turn his attention to peasants. Let him not concern himself unduly with supply of soaps to prisoners and such things. The prisoners are not the backbone of the country. Let him forget his alma mater; he has taken his degree in it; it is over now; a new chapter has now begun. His prison degree is absolutely unnecessary. He has to take a peasants degree. He has to think of the peasants.

"Only one word more. During the war, Mr. Churchill said: 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job.' Similarly I say, Sir, 'Give us the tools we ask for.' There is no use of speaking over the radio or sending the Police. There are the tools I have asked for in the amendment. Turn your electricity to agriculture, supply oil engines and provide the necessary drainage schemes. No attention should be given to any scheme if it is not going to contribute to the solution of the food crisis. The Government must do this instead of saying: 'The Andhras are blackmarketing, the Tamilians are not blackmarketing and they are more generous. I will put the police on the black-marketers' and so on. To say like that is mischievous if not to give a revolting twist to facts. Sir, I move the amendment."

a Amendment.

'And on such consideration this Council resolves:

- (1) That the procurement price of paddy be taken at Rs. 8 per maund and procurement of coconut as supplemental food be taken up.*
- (2) That electric connections to wells and supply of electric pumps, etc., be fixed as the first and if necessary, the sole function of the Department concerned for such supply and maintenance.*
- (3) That the thermal scheme for Nellore be taken up instantly while simultaneously proceeding with laying of connections to villages and that electricity be made available first to villages before June 1948 and not to urban areas until all the villages are completely connected and that any lack of material for carrying out 2 and 3 be supplied and laid up by transferring from urban areas any fitted and fixed up material not connected with food products.*
- (4) That oil engines tractors and other implements in stock and to be procured be delivered in the first instance and if necessary only to ryots applying for the same.*
- (5) That drainage schemes in the delta areas which can be taken up and finished to an appreciable extent be classified and proceeded with and finished before 15th June 1948.*
- (6) That Irrigation department be directed to supply water for second crop in West Godavari and under all the channels available and also directed to submit proposals and execute the same before April 1948 to raise seedlings early enough in the Kistna and Godavari Deltas.*
- (7) That flood havoc caused by the Budamen and Ramilen, etc., and other streams in the Kistna and Godavari Deltas be prevented from again occurring in 1948 by executing the emergent even if temporary measures, therefor before June 1948.*
- (8) That adequate number of factories be established for the production of ammoniac and phosphatic fertilisers.*
- (9) That an embargo be put on the export of groundnut kernels for conser; ving manure and the loss in price made up by a levy on the price of groundnut cake by making it a monopoly procurement.*
- (10) That the Government report on the action taken about the above matters to this House in its meeting in November 1947.*

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* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I heartily congratulate the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, the Food Minister, on the very free, frank, full and fair statement on the food problem which he has made. He has taken this House and the public into confidence and has given facts and figures very carefully without offending persons who might otherwise have been offended. I also congratulate the Ministry and particularly Hon. the Premier. They have worked together as a good team and tried to tide over the crisis. Particularly the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan and the Hon. the Premier have been very very helpful and we must thank them for the measures they have adopted to avert the food crisis. I deprecate that in certain quarters there has been an attempt to make the food problem a political matter, to make political capital out of it. It may be that some people hoped that if rationing broke down, the Ministers would get out of office and some others would come in. Sir, the food problem is not a political problem to be taken advantage of for party politics. It is everybody's problem. Every member of this House and every member of the public must give his co-operation to the Ministry in solving this problem. If I make some suggestions now, it is not by way of captious criticisms but only with a view to solve this problem. Before I do so, I want to refer to two statements in the Hon. Dr. Rajan's speech. He has pointed out with facts and figures that the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies did not work effectively. These facts and figures have not been challenged and I do not think that they will be challenged. They show that the action taken by the Government was quite in order, quite justified and quite necessary. He has also given the quantities of grain procured from the various surplus districts such as Tanjore and the Circars. The Hon. the Premier in one of his speeches said that the Government would have to use force if black-marketers did not produce the stock within a particular time. As a member of the Council and as a citizen, I endorse and appreciate the determination of the Government that in solving the food problem and saving the people from starvation they would take all the necessary steps and use all means in the power of the Government to get the surplus stock available. Attempts have been made to show that the statement that force would have to be used was in reference to Circars only and not to Tanjore. But actually the statement applied to all places wherever force was required to procure foodgrains. Tanjore has done very well and it is my hope that the Circars and other districts also will do very well. I would therefore endorse the observations made by the Hon. Premier and we must support the Government in all the measures they take to put down black-marketing and procure the necessary food for the people and save them from starvation. The food problem is not one for people to make political capital. Having said this, I want to make a few suggestions. One thing in the speech of the Hon. Food Minister that struck me is that the area under paddy and the yield is almost stationary during the last decade while the area under millets has decreased and the yield has gone down by nearly a million tons. There is also the further statement that in the last two years the Government have

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been spending about 14 crores of rupees on food subsidies alone and the Government cannot afford to continue to do so indefinitely. It is clear from this statement that the Government had no long-term policy to produce more food. Propaganda was done during war time to produce more food. I do not criticize this Ministry for not having a plan earlier, because they had no time. I think it is high time that the Government adopt a long-term policy to increase the area under cultivation, to have intensive cultivation in areas where there is already cultivation, and to remove all impediments in the way of producing more food, so that in the course of two, three or five years, this Province will become self-sufficient in food. I go further and say that every district in the Province should be made self-sufficient. We have no idea of the land which is cultivable but not cultivated. I ask Dr. Rajan immediately to get an estimate of the uncultivated cultivable lands in every district; put an officer with necessary staff in every district to find out what the impediments are in the way of cultivating cultivable lands. It may be that the land is lying waste because the owner does not want cultivation, in which case I suggest to the Government to assume power by legislation to take possession of all cultivable but uncultivated lands. There is nothing against a Government, who have spent 14 crores on food subsidies in two years, cultivating the lands themselves. The agricultural industry of this Province may be nationalized. I suggest that the Government should have co-operative societies in every taluk if not in every village which will cultivate such lands. There may be other impediments. Those who would like to cultivate may not have finance. I suggest to the Government that they should finance them. It may be that they have no scientific implements. Supply them with scientific implements. It may be that they have no seed or manure. Supply them with seed or manure. As far as I know, they have no water for irrigation more than anything else. In Malabar district, for the last half a century, you have spent only about Rs. 5,000 on irrigation. The previous Government neglected it and this Government also do not seem to have a kind heart for Malabar. Any way, I am not on that question now. There is the question of minor and major irrigation. The Government must have a five-year plan of irrigation which will supply water for the uncultivated cultivable lands. If the Government have such a plan, if they appoint an officer with necessary staff to find out the extent of uncultivated cultivable lands in each district and remove the impediments in the way of cultivation, in about five years this province will become self-sufficient in food. In the speech of the Hon. Food Minister, I do not see one word about the steps that the Government are contemplating to take in order to make the province self-sufficient. They seem to be concentrating their attention on the immediate object of procurement and distribution. That is not enough; they must have a long-term plan. I ask the Government not to grudge spending a few crores of rupees on bringing all the uncultivated cultivable lands in the province, whether they are in Andhra Desa, Tamil Nad, Malabar or Kanara, under the plough. It would have been better if a scheme like that had been

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brought forward when the area under paddy is stationary during the last decade, that the area under millets has decreased and that in the last two years 14 crores have been spent on food subsidies. The Government should ask every district officer to publish weekly or monthly figures of the extent of land brought under cultivation and the food produced and see how each district competes with the other, just as the previous Governor was doing in respect of War Fund collections. If that is done, the people will be satisfied and the Government also will be doing something. Instead of spending 7 crores every year on food subsidies, I ask the Government to spend a few crores on a five-year plan for increased food production."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" For the information of the hon. Member, I may just remind him that the Government are issuing fortnightly reports about the quantity of the collection and distribution of foodgrains, and they are given to the press. As regards Malabar, I may tell him that we have a scheme to undertake this year. Unfortunately Malabar is so situated that we cannot have big projects. There are only small streams running down the mountains."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I thought the Hon. Minister wanted to reply to the amendment. I think he can do it in one speech."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If the mover of the amendment wants, I will certainly tell the House where the Government stand with regard to the amendment. But the debate will be going on the whole of to-day, and I do not know when the amendment will be put to vote."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It will be at the end of the debate."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If it is at the end, I will answer later."

(K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur stood up to speak.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member should finish his speech in fifteen minutes."

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The subject has been so exhaustively dealt with that I don't think I will take more time.

" Mr. President, Sir, you are aware that when the food question was debated in this House last year, my party said that it was prepared to co-operate with the Government wholeheartedly on the question of food, because no party considerations could enter into this matter. From that point of view, we offered suggestions to the Government, but unfortunately all of them were thrown to the winds. But I am glad that the present Government have found out from experience that most of our suggestions have been justified. The Hon. Minister for Food points out that the two

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institutions set up during the year have failed to achieve their object. They are the village, taluk and district food committees and the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. We had been telling then that it was most unsafe and dangerous to make experiments in matters connected with the lives of human beings, and that it was safer to continue the normal channels for procurement and distribution when the province was on the verge of famine. The then Government were determined to carry on experiments in tackling the food problem with the result that they have brought the country to such a pass. Now the Government have decided that both these institutions should be scrapped, but it would have been better if the present Government had done it earlier. When we were discussing the food situation last time, the Hon. Minister for Food said that in the delta districts, the producer-cum-consumer societies had failed to procure the target fixed for them. In view of the experience gained by the Government, we appealed to abolish them and also the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies in other districts of the province without waiting for similar experience there also. Then they did not do it, and they have waited till now to know the real situation. Anyhow, it is never too late to mend, and I am glad that the Government have decided to restore the normal trade channels for procurement and distribution.

“ In paragraph 19 at page 10 of the Hon. Minister's speech, I find a sentence to the effect that the Government cannot undertake indefinitely the direct feeding of the people and that steps should be taken some day to restore, as far as may be, the normal channels of distribution. I quite agree that the Government cannot undertake the responsibility for direct feeding of the people when normal conditions prevail. But we are on the verge of famine, and the whole business has been taken away from normal trade channels. How can the Government suddenly say that they will abdicate their functions and restore normal channels? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ It is only a suggestion ; it is not the decision of the Government.”

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—
“ Thank you, Sir. There is control everywhere ; the merchants cannot import grains from any part of the province or the country. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government at this juncture to see that foodgrains are brought to famine areas from whichever part of the world it may be. We have heard of people dying of famine in olden days when there were no proper communications and transport facilities. Now the world has shrunk so much that in a couple of days foodgrains and other articles can be moved from one port to another. It is the duty of the Government to see that not a single soul dies of starvation in these days when communications and transport facilities have considerably developed.

“ I now come to the question of procurement. We are quite aware that our Government are very much handicapped in the

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fixation of prices on account of the Government of India. Probably that is one of the effects that this Province has secured due to the attainment of independence by India.

“ Now, Sir, the Hon. Minister for Food himself says in paragraph 10 of his statement that ‘ the arguments that the price of foodgrains in Madras were the lowest in India and that the prices had not been allowed to rise to the same extent as in other parts of India, were not disputed.’ I cannot understand why the Government of India should be so eccentric on this question. At least, should not the cultivators in Madras be given the same price as is given to cultivators in other parts of the country? Sir, I am reminded, in this connection, of the famous Meston Award. Because our Province has been more economic in all matters than other Provinces, we were then deprived of our legitimate share and what we saved. Somehow or other the prices in this Province have been kept down and so the Government of India now insists that they should not be brought up even to the level of prices prevailing in other Provinces. I ask, Sir, ‘ Should not this Province have so much of self-government as to have the right to fix the prices of foodgrains in consonance with what obtains in other Provinces? ’ Now every one will admit that the cost of cultivation has considerably increased and that the prices of other necessities of life have also increased very much. If the cultivator is compelled to part with his foodgrains at a considerably low price, how is he to obtain his cloth and other requirements of life? Already he is overtaxed. Still the price of paddy in this Province is the lowest. And we know also that the cultivator is proverbially in debt. How on earth can he be expected to part with his paddy at such a low price? I know that the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Minister for Food have been exerting their utmost to persuade the Government of India to allow an increased price for paddy, but so far, they have not succeeded. We know that an *ad hoc* committee has been appointed by the Provincial Food Council to determine the price of paddy. Even the decision of that *ad hoc* committee will not be of any avail if the Government of India do not accept the decision of that committee. That is why I say that we must have complete provincial autonomy and that the residuary powers must rest with the Province. But the Constituent Assembly has decided otherwise and certain members opposite and the majority of the Members of the Constituent Assembly did not see eye to eye with us in this important matter. We must see that under provincial autonomy we get at least such powers as will enable us to fix a proper price for paddy and that our cultivators and producers get their due. If this Government have not got that much power and if for everything we have to be controlled by the Centre, I ask what is the use of this provincial autonomy?

12-45
p.m.

“ Then, Sir, with regard to the long range aspect of the food problem, there is one significant sentence in the statement of the Hon. Minister for Food, which I must refer to now. He says that the population keeps on increasing inexorably in geometric

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ratio of about one per cent per year. I do not know whether the Government disapprove of the increase in population. Anyhow, it is the duty of the Government to find food for all the people."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I thought you are going to suggest birth control."

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am dead against birth control, Sir. I want that the population of this Province must increase. The Government should not abdicate their function of providing food for the people by saying that birth control should be adopted."

"Sir, the Hon. Minister for Food admits that this Province has vast resources of land and rivers; still we are begging for food. Why is it so? Some practical steps should be taken in the matter. There must first of all be a survey of all arable lands in the Province which are lying fallow and attempts should be made to see that they are cultivated. It is true that the Agricultural department has been functioning for several years past, but has it been really useful in increasing cultivation? I want to know whether there is any real connexion between the Department of Agriculture and the cultivators. Sir, I am afraid that we are not getting sufficient return for the money we are spending on the Agricultural department and I submit that the whole department should be overhauled in such a way that the agricultural production of this Province is stepped up and brought into line with the production in other parts of the world. It is admitted, Sir, that the yield of land in India per acre is very very low compared with the yield in other parts of the world. I am told that in some parts it is many times more than what it is in India. The Hon. Minister for Food has been an agriculturist himself hitherto, and he knows what steps should be taken to increase the yield of the land. There are certain paddy breeding stations functioning in some parts of this Province and they do experiments in the matter of developing seeds by the process of grafting, but I am told that the seeds which are being sent for distribution to cultivators very often go into the bowels of the persons who are entrusted with such distribution, instead of into the bowels of the earth. Therefore, Sir, I submit that a long range policy should be decided upon and steps should be taken to see that this Province is enabled to produce sufficient foodgrains to feed the entire population of our Province and not be made to stand a begging at the doors of the Government of India."

* SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the food problem is no doubt a very difficult one. We are unable to get our supply from outside as in the past as stated by the Hon. Minister for Food. The monsoon fails. Labour is a problem now and, to add to this, the Kisan trouble is another factor. This is not the first year we are in the field of procurement and this is not the first year we are facing difficult times. This year is worse than previous years because of unfavourable monsoon

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and other difficulties. Monsoon is an act of nature while others are acts of our own. Why have we not learnt in spite of our past experiences and failures? There must be something radically wrong somewhere.

“ The manure that is being supplied is very inadequate and the distribution is not also done at the proper time to help the agriculturist to get even the very little quantity of manure he is able to get. Without proper manuring at the right time, one cannot count upon a proper outturn of income.

“ I like to refer here to the speech of the Hon. the Minister for Food on the floor of this House in May 1946, on page 72 of the Proceedings.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ As a Member of this House or as Minister? ”

* SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ As a Member of this House, Sir. He said in the course of his speech—

“ I want the Government to consult the Agricultural department ; they must encourage the ryot to take money from the Government and use it for the land. Otherwise, you cannot produce the food you want. The present circuitous procedure takes the lives of the population. The procedure is circuitous and dilatory ; the problem cannot be solved by files of paper with red tapes circulating in the Secretariat. Food must be produced by men in the field. You must deal with the agriculturist direct and given him the help he requires. That is my first proposition

“ Food and agriculture should go hand in hand. Total procurement should be done at the thrashing ground itself allowing people to take the required quantity for seeds, personal consumption, and wages, etc. This cannot at all be successfully done with the help of the Village Committees. The more said about them the more it will stink. Hon. Members who spoke before me have said enough on this. The Government themselves are aware of the details of the very unsatisfactory way and manner in which the village committees are working. Why should they hug on to it even now?

“ Sir, in this connexion I should like to read to the House, what the Hon. Minister for Food spoke on that occasion. He said—

“ But I would like to warn the Government and the Hon. the Premier—not that he does not know it—that these Committees are not going to work satisfactorily. What with their quarrels, underground tricks of some of them and the degeneration of public character among our village population—I do not blame them, for it, as the qualities that contribute to the proper working of the village system have been allowed to lie dormant and perhaps die—control and guidance is necessary. Please do not allow the village community to manage the whole thing on their own responsibility

“ Sir, the requirement of every pattadar should be correctly calculated and the entire surpluses should be procured even at the beginning. Even here, the Hon. Dr. Rajan had made certain suggestions in his speech on May 28, 1946 on pages 75-76 of the Proceedings of the Council. I am sorry to point out, Sir, that his suggestions were not carried by the Government at any time and the result is we have black-marketing everywhere. Sir, there is no use in allowing things to take their own course and later on

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when we are faced with difficulties, the Government rush forward for procurement for a second time and a third time giving room for abuse of powers and for mischievous elements from outside to play their part who are in the habit of threatening the authorities and often creating confusion in the village mostly to earn their livelihood and with mischievous temperament as they have no other work to do. Thanks, we are not faced with other complications as we see and hear of the state of affairs in the North. Let us not drive people to temptations. A stitch in time saves nine. Till conditions are made to improve, we have to maintain the present system of rationing both in statutory and non-statutory areas. It is easy to say, but it is no doubt a very difficult strain on Government; yet they have to carry it on, in the interest of the people.

“ Sir, in this connexion, I have to point out to Government that they ought not to allow villagers to suffer in order to see that statutory rationing area receives its full supply. You cannot afford to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. If the villagers are starved, then there will be labour difficulty and no seed will be available for the next cultivation and the entire situation will go from bad to worse. We are no doubt guided by figures and calculations and are unable to arrive at a definite position and fail in our calculations as nature is against us and the figures become imaginary.

“ I do not take an intense agriculturist for purpose of calculation and procurement. Take an ordinary absentee landlord. His yield will certainly be less. If he measures a particular quantity, the rest in the village should also be able to measure a quantity in proportion to the land owned by them. I come forward and say that procurement was not done on that basis. Why was it not collected in full? When once the grain is allowed to be taken away and if an attempt is made later for procurement, there is bound to be a failure and it gives room for all sorts of troubles. The entire procurement should be done only once and that at the thrashing floor itself in the proper manner. I appeal to Government to enforce this at all cost.

“ Sir, I have also to mention in this connexion that there should be no cross-movements of grains. The needs of the respective areas should be got ready far in advance and the stock should be made to move regularly and in time. At least till conditions improve, the Government may put a stop to unusual crowding in the City, by way of exhibition and the like. I am not against it; I am saying it only to minimize extra crowd in the city, rushing from various places when attempts are being made to ease the situation, of food problem. We cannot forget that we have to provide for the refugees.

“ The Grow More Food campaign is another way by which the normal cultivation is considerably affected giving a free scope for abuse of powers and giving room for litigation. The Government themselves are aware of the result.

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“As an alternative I request the Government to consider the question of leaving the villagers to themselves and transport the required quantity for statutory rationing areas alone from the surplus districts or from outside.”

“In view of the abnormally high prices of other articles, it is necessary that the price of paddy should also be increased to a fair proportion.”

“I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity you have given to me to speak on the subject.”

The House rose for lunch.

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“అధ్యక్ష, ప్రస్తుత ఆహార పరిస్థితి చాలా అందోళన కలగజేయుచున్నదను విషయము అందఱకు తెలిసినదే. ఈ సందర్భంలో మా deficit జిల్లా అయినటువంటి విశాఖపట్టణం జిల్లాను గురించి మనవి చేస్తాను. మా జిల్లా central co-operative stores వారు ఇప్పుడు బియ్యమును ధాన్యమును గవర్నమెంటువారు నిర్ణయించిన ధరలకన్న హెచ్చుధరలకు ఆమ్తుచున్నారు.

గవర్నమెంటు ధర. కో ఆపరేటివ్ సోపర్స్ ధర.

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“ఈ విధముగా ఈ co-operative stores వారు హెచ్చుధరలకు చిల్లర వర్తకులకు ఇచ్చుచున్నారు. ఈ చిల్లర వర్తకులు ఇంకను లాభములు వేసుకొని ఆమ్తుచున్నారు. దీనివలన పేదవారికి బియ్యము హెచ్చు ధరలకు కొనవలసివచ్చుచున్నది. ఈవిధముగా మధ్యవర్తుల (middle men) సంఖ్య పెరిగిపోవుచున్నది. ఈ విషయములో ప్రభుత్వమువారు తగు శ్రద్ధతీసుకొని పేదవారికి బియ్యము సరసమగు ధరలకు దొరుకునట్లుచేయగోరాను.

“పాతపట్నం తాలూకా కొత్తూరు ధరి చినదిమిలి గ్రామంలో గడ్డ ఆప్పలస్వామి అనే ఆయన co-operative stores కు procurement విషయంలో middle man (మధ్యవర్తి)గా నున్నాడు. ఈ co-operative stores లో పదివేలరూపాయలు ఎంట్రెజ్ మెంటు జరిగినది. ఈ పదివేలరూపాయల ఎంట్రెజ్ మెంటులో 5 వేల రూపాయలు వర్తకుడు, ఒక వెయ్యిరూపాయలు 2, 4 వేలరూపాయలు co-operative stores ఇచ్చుకొనునట్లు ఏర్పాటుచేసుకొనినారు. ఈ 4 వేలరూపాయలు co-operative stores కు ఎక్కడనుంచుచున్న. దీనిని వారు రైతులకు బండ్ల అద్దెలో ఇవ్వవలసినదానిలో నుంచి మినహాయించుచున్నారు. ఈ Co-operative stores వారు ఈ సంవత్సరం 14,418 బస్తాల వరిధాన్యము, 18 బస్తాల చోళ్ల Procure చేసినారు. గవర్నమెంటువారు నిర్ణయించిన ధరలకకారము వారు బస్తాకు మైలుకు 4 దబ్బిడిల చొప్పున బల్లకిరాయి ఇవ్వవలసియున్నది. కాని వారు 3 దబ్బిడిలనే ఇచ్చుచున్నారు. అనగా 1 దబ్బిడి తగ్గించి యిచ్చుచున్నారు. ఈవిధముగా తక్కువ అద్దె ఇచ్చుటవలన Co-operative stores వారు ప్రొక్యూర్ చేసిన మొత్తము 14,436 (ధాన్యము 14,418, చోళ్ల 18) బస్తాలమీద అస్తా

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మెలకు 1 దబ్బిడి చొప్పున వచ్చిన లాభము 2,725-7-4 ఈవిధముగా ఈ Co-operative stores వారు వారి తప్పలవలన వచ్చిన నష్టమును మీద కూలీల వద్ద నుంచి, రైతులవద్దనుంచి రాజిక్టుకొనుచున్నారు. దీనివల్ల గవర్నమెంటు ఇవ్వదలచిన ధరలలో కొంతభాగము మధ్యవర్తులకు (Middlemen) పోవుచున్నది. అందువలన ఈవిధముగా మధ్యవర్తులకు వచ్చు డబ్బును రైతుకు ఇచ్చు ధరలలోనే చేర్చి రైతుకు హెచ్చుధరవచ్చునట్లుగా చూడవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను. ఈవిధముగా రైతులకు హెచ్చుధర వచ్చినట్లయితే ప్రాక్యూరుమెంటు చాలా సులభముగాను, సౌకర్యముగాను జరుగునని నేను చెప్పచున్నాను.

“మన రాష్ట్రంలో కొన్ని (Surplus) మిగులు జిల్లాలు ఉన్నాయి. అసలు ఈ రేషన్‌కు ఈ Surplus జిల్లాలలో తీసివేయవలసినదని నా అభిప్రాయము. ఈ రేషన్‌కు ఉండవలసినది Deficit జిల్లాలోను Urban area (పట్టణములలోను) మాత్రమేనని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను. అందువల్ల ఈ Surplus (మిగులు) జిల్లాలనుంచి గత చూడు సంవత్సరముల నుంచి ఎంతైతే Surplus థాన్యము ప్రాక్యూర్ చేసినారో దాని సగటు మొత్తమును తీసుకొని అంత థాన్యమును ఆ జిల్లాలనుంచి తీసుకొని, Deficit జిల్లాలకు Urban area లకు పంపకము చేసినట్లయితే చాలా సౌకర్యముగా ఉండునని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను.

“ఇంతేకాక చోట్ల, గంటెలు, మొదలగు థాన్యములకు కంట్రోలు తీసివేయవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. ఈవిధముగా చేసిన చాలామంది పిద్దరైతులకు సౌఖ్యముగా నుండును. బియ్యము కొరకనప్పుడు వారు చోట్లను గంటెలను ఉపయోగించెదరు. ఈ చోట్ల, గంటెలు మన రాష్ట్రములో దాదాపు నూటికి 25 మందికి ఆహార థాన్యములుగా వున్నవి. (Interruption) అంతకన్న హెచ్చుమందికే ఈ థాన్యములు ఉపయోగపడుచున్నవి. బకకుళి నూటికి 50 మంది వీటిని ఉపయోగించుచుండవచ్చును. ఈ చోట్ల గంటెలు మొదలగు వాటికిని ధరలు చాలా తక్కువగా ఉన్నవి. వీటి ధరలను కూడా కొంత హెచ్చుచేసినట్లయితే రైతులకు ఉత్సాహముగా నుండి హెచ్చు థాన్యములు పండించుదురు.”

“ఈ సందర్భంలో ఒక విషయం మనవిచేస్తాను. గత సంవత్సరంలో ప్రాక్యూర్ మెంటు వర్తకులకు ఇచ్చియున్నారు. అప్పుడు బియ్యపు దిగుబడి Single polish ఇచ్చి వందకు 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ వంతులు (66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %) ఉండునట్లుగా ఆర్డర్లు ఇచ్చినారు. అప్పుడు ఒక శేరు బియ్యము చిల్లరధర రూ. 0-4-3 లు ఉండెడిది. కాని ఇప్పుడు థాన్యమును Dehusk చేస్తున్నారు. దీనివలన దిగుబడి వందకు 75 వంతులు ఉండవలసని అన్నారు. అవిధముగానే హెచ్చు దిగుబడి వచ్చుచున్నది. అసగా ఇప్పుడు 1 శేరు బియ్యము ధర ఇదివరకు ఉన్న ధరకన్న తక్కువగా ఉండవలను. కాని ఇప్పుడు అటులకాక 1 శేరు బియ్యము ధర ఇదివరకుకన్న హెచ్చుగా ఉన్నది. ఇదివరకు ఒక శేరు బియ్యము ధర రూ. 0-4-3 ఉండెడిది. కాని ఇప్పుడు ఒక శేరు బియ్యము ధర రూ. 0-5-10 చొప్పున ఉన్నది. ఈవిధముగా హెచ్చు దిగుబడి వచ్చుచున్నపుడు చిల్లరధర హెచ్చుచేయుట అనవసరము, అన్యాయము అని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను.

“ఇంతే కాక ఇప్పుడు రైతులు వేరుశనకాయ, పొగాకు, చెరుకు మొదలగు పంటలను పండించుచున్నారు, ఈ పంటలను పండించుటవలన రైతులకు ఒక ఎకరమునకు 300 రూపాయలనుంచి 6,7 వందల రూపాయలవరకు వచ్చుచున్నది కాని వారి మొదలగు పంటలను వేయుటవలన చాలా తక్కువ ఆదాయము

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వచ్చుచున్నది. ఇట్టి సందర్భములలో రైతులకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఇచ్చుచున్న బోనసు చాలా తక్కువ. ఈ కొద్దికొద్ది బోనసులవల్ల రైతుకు లాభము కలుగదు అందు వలన భాగ్యముల ధరలు పెంచవలెను. అంతేకాక చోళ్లకు, గంటలకు కంట్రోలు తీసివేయవలెను.

“ఇప్పుడు మా జిల్లాలో రేషనింగు సరిగా జరుగుటలేదు. రేషను డిపోలలో సరియైనంత బియ్యము నిలువకుండుటలేదు. షేడవార్లకు ఇవ్వవలసినంత బియ్యము ఇచ్చుటలేదు. అట్టి పరిస్థితులలో ఈ చోళ్లు, గంటలకు ఖాదలగు వాటికి కంట్రోలు లేకపోయినట్లుంటే ఈ షేడ రైతులు ఏ ఒంథువులవద్దనుంచో బదులు తెచ్చు కొంటారు లేనిచో వార్లకు తినుటకు ఏమియు లేక చాలా బాధలు పడవలసి ఉంటుంది. అందువలన వీటిమీద కంట్రోలు తీసివేయవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.”

* MRS. M. HENSMAN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am aware that time is short, but I must put forward a few points and suggestions, not of criticism, Sir, but suggestions constructively and from the point of view of us women who have to deal with food which, I hope, the Hon. Minister in charge of Food will implement in due course.

“ Sir, Mr. J. R. Marrack has written a book on “ Food and Planning ”; and I think I can do no better than begin with one of the sentences from his book. Shortness of time, I do bear in mind, but the quotation is short too. He says :

“ Government is the vast organisation in control of the purchase and distribution of a great part of the production, export, import and distribution of food. It has to guard against the chaos of over-production and under-consumption, of private enterprise, with big fortunes for speculators during times of extreme shortage ”.

That, Sir, is the view of one of our prophets, and then in our country, we have to add to the above the duty of the agriculturist, the small estates and holdings, the backward state of our agriculture and the unsuitable or ill-prepared soil that combats the self-sufficiency of this Province.

“ Now, Sir, the subject has been raised of Government subsidies to the farmer, by introducing fresh manure, fresh soil helps and also fresh machinery. We have already discussed the question of supplementing the amount that is offered to the agriculturist in exchange for the food. Mr. President, Sir, unless the agriculturist is helped, as was pointed out in the Hon. Minister's speech just a few months ago, the agriculturist is not going to part with the greater part of his wealth. Everything has gone up for him and he has not had the same incentive to service perhaps, as those who have joined the Servants of India Society or the other Social Service Leagues in India. He sees the future only in terms of his family, of his land and of his wealth, and he will not part with the food unless it is made worthwhile.

“ Now, Sir, in the course of the discussion, one of the hon. Members on this side of the House most ably put forward the terms which the agriculturist might consider fair; but in the raising of the standard of payment to the agriculturists, I trust, Sir, the

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consumer is not going to pay the extra prices. The consumer is a poor village teacher or a poor pastor or a person living on his bare margin in town or country. If these people have to bear the extra consumption amount, that means they will go without. Is it too much to ask the Hon. Minister in charge of Food that there might be a nicely-weighed plan, whereby the Government might get hold perhaps of some of the money that we have been told by the Hon. the Minister for Home is necessary in this Province from the race-course or other sources towards the supplementing of this consumption rate to the increased purchase rate that the agriculturist will think fair.

"Then, Sir, I also wish to point out a thing which I have seen myself. In this matter of food shortage, it is the barns, it is the godowns where the food is stored that first have to be attended to. For one thing, there is not a sufficiency of godowns properly built up for the amount of food that may come in after this wonderful drive that is going to be the result of the Hon. Minister's tours in the Province. And I would like to ask whether the repairing, the better conditioning of the existing barns and godowns is not a matter of great urgency. The other day I was going—August 29, not even a month ago—to Conjeevaram and Vellore by road and I saw very ill-repaired places for food storing. I would ask the Hon. Minister to put forward this as a great matter of urgency. Rats and rains are; to say nothing of other both two-legged and four-legged leakages, the result of badly-used and badly-kept storage places.

"Then, Sir, the transport. Only last week, in Mount Road, there was a big van. It was a Friday I suppose; the van was going to one of the ration shops that were closed, for checking up and getting the stock verified, as is done every Friday in Madras.

3-15
p.m.

"The van had got what rice was gathered in that week. On the back of the van, I found the number M.S.C. 9899. Overtaking and stopping him, I went to the driver of the van and told him that there was a leakage in one of the rice bags he was carrying and explained that the van that he had had filled recently contained stock that was deteriorating every moment. Would you believe what he did? He went just back to his seat and he began to drive faster because it did not matter at all to him. I have sometimes seen people who are in charge of investigating rice stocks hoarding stocks themselves rather than trying to see whether the rice stock is short or something else. Sometimes, these gentlemen who are responsible for checking stocks make complaints as a matter of legal inquisitiveness. I do feel that there should be some Inspector or some helper or some person in charge of rationing who can accompany these vans to their place of destination if it is not asking too much of the Food Department. This leakage and wastage are things which require very great investigation at this time. We tell our children not to waste but we find this leakage comes in everywhere in Government machinery.

"Now, Sir, an hon. Member said something about waste lands. Whether waste lands can be cultivated or not depends upon the

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amount of water obtainable. Unless the system of irrigation is so ordered, there cannot be a constant flow or a continuous flow of water to these waste lands. That is going to be a big point in bringing waste lands under cultivation. For instance, I have heard in several districts and in my own district, that in adjacent farms, unless the wells are dug sufficiently deep, the flow of water goes to another farm where the wells are dug still deeper. So, I suggest that these wells should be served by an intersecting channel arrangement. Persons who draw water from a river for irrigation purposes know the advantage of this arrangement. So also, in private wells, the system of intersecting channels means that if one man gets water, then everybody gets it. If waste lands have to be cultivated and the plough is to be brought under control, then imports also must be controlled. Imports like foreign manures should be controlled and exports should not be encouraged by the present Government if sowing and reaping are to be better than they are now.

“ Then, there is the question of the refugee camps that are going to be set up. Refugee camps should not be placed near cities or near towns but in places where food is produced. It means that the refugee camps should accommodate workers who will be able to produce their own food by their own labour and not compete unnecessarily with the already over-crowded labour in the cities and towns. In this Province, we have every sympathy for those who have lost their homes, their possessions, and their families also. As in 1942, when we did our best for refugees from Burma, so now we have agreed with generosity and zeal to house our own countrymen who are homeless and without possessions. But, Sir, they have to be placed in a position to get their food. They should be asked to help themselves in the matter of food, for many of them are agriculturists and not townspeople.

“ Finally, Sir, I would ask whether it is wise to have this rationing discontinued after December. It is the right of everybody to get foodgrains and so this rationing is absolutely essential. I was surprised to find that any man or woman would wish that rationing should be lifted in this Province because that would be ensuring a very unjust distribution. Sir, the ration card may be a weapon of defence in times of starvation. It certainly means—although women have got to queue up before ration shops and lose their time—that every individual is assured of his food. There will be lakhs of people protesting against a system of distribution without rationing. Again, we want cow planning and grain planning. These are two things which perhaps will help us at this time. There should be regulation in distribution of important foodgrains. Secondly, prices have to be controlled and all home foods that are in short supply should be rationed. If these measures are adopted, then I think that this Government will be able not only to pass successfully through October, November and December, but I know that the name of the Food Minister himself will be more honoured than ever in every household in this Province.”

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* SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, Government seem to be realizing that they cannot take the responsibility of finding foodgrains for all the people of this Province. Procurement is not satisfactory. Rationing can be satisfactory only if procurement is satisfactory; procurement will be satisfactory only when a large majority of producers, Government officials, merchants and consumers are honest. When the stock of foodgrains has run short and when our Ministers are obliged to run to various districts to appeal to the producers to give their stocks, we find that a large number of big landlords are not willing to part with their surplus stocks. The Government officials are not enforcing the rules to get the stocks out of them. Sir, in our country, it would never be possible to enforce these rules with more rigour because we find many people disobeying the rules. So, it is better for the Government, instead of spending seven or eight crores every year on the Food Department, to give up this procurement and rationing also though not immediately but after the harvest is over when there will be plenty of stock in the rural areas. No doubt, it may be possible to introduce this change immediately after the harvest is over in all surplus districts. It is also possible to introduce this change slowly and abolish rationing in rural areas and in deficit districts also but procurement and import of foodgrains, as far as possible, should be continued as large stocks have to be built up.

“ Sir, I would like to suggest that the large sums of money spent on the Food Department during the last two years, would be, better utilized for improving the irrigation sources. In a short time, when the zamindaris will be abolished and when the Government take over all those lands, that money can be best utilized for the repair of the irrigation sources as well as for finding new sources of irrigation. If they complete that work within a short time, then there will be greater yield of foodgrains.

“ Again, Sir, Government will have to fix fair prices for all the foodgrains for the whole year and they should not change the rate in the course of the year. Hoarding of large quantities should be penalised. Producers should be ordered to reduce the area grown for tobacco, groundnut and other money crops. We find this year that the area under the cultivation of tobacco, groundnut and other money crops is increasing and Government should be able to restrict the area. If that is done, I think we shall have more foodgrains. We want more foodgrains for the sake of the poor people of this Province. We do not mind whether large quantities of groundnuts and tobacco are exported or not. If we should have more foodgrains, Government should discourage the growth of tobacco and groundnut at least to some extent.

“ Sir, a model agricultural farm at least one for each taluk has to be started. Agricultural research stations, one for each district and an agricultural college for every four or five districts will have to be started. Then we shall have a number of trained men who will be able to help in the production of more food. Manures,

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agricultural implements etc., have to be supplied to the poor agriculturists at concessional rates so that they may be able to produce large quantities of foodgrains. If these suggestions are agreed to and if such things are introduced by the Government, then people will automatically have enough food."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, this food problem has come to stay "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The other day, I had requested all the hon. Members who wanted to speak on this subject to give their names. I got only some names but I now see that there are a number of persons who wish to speak and it is very difficult to adjust time. I wish to restrict myself to the list already given unless Government are prepared to sit to-morrow."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It will be up to you to have a sitting to-morrow."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Would you prefer to sit late to-day or would you prefer to sit to-morrow? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am guided by the general sense of the House in this matter. I am prepared to sit any time either to-morrow or late to-day if the House makes up its mind to do so."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If the House is prepared to sit till 7 o'clock, we will be able to finish to-day."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" We will finish it to-day."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Why not allow some time on Monday? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is not possible on Monday because Monday is set apart for discussion on Supplementary Demands."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, 3-30
I am afraid this food problem has come to stay. It will be seen P.m.
from the figures furnished by the Hon. Minister for Food that in the pre-war year the quantity available for consumption was 7,700,000 tons, but in the pre-war year the population was much less than what it is to-day. Even for that population we had to depend on imports from outside to the extent of 460,000 tons of rice and millets. Now, Sir, I would beseech the Government not to be content with tinkering with the problem and for the time get over the difficult situation into which we have got but also to think of some long range plan. I shall deal with that presently.

" Sir, the first question that is uppermost in our minds is the question of procurement. I was one of those who was worrying the Hon. Minister for Food that procurement operations should be expedited and intensified too. But, I was glad to see that yesterday a Gazette Extraordinary Notification has been issued by which the Government have taken more powers to see that those who have stocks are made to give them up. I have also pointed out that it is the small holder that has been more law-abiding and

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I was pleased to read the Hon. Minister say in his tours that it is the small holder that has been generous enough to give up the little surplus he had with him and that it is the big holder that is withholding stocks. If that is so, may I ask the Government what action they have taken against those big holders who have withheld stocks though they have enough stocks to spare. How many prosecutions have been launched against these big holders who are violating the Foodgrains Control Order and other such orders? Even without launching prosecutions the Hon. Ministers of Government warned that in case the big landholders do not give up stocks so far withheld the Government would be compelled to use force. I see there is an uproar in the Ministerial Party as though the use of the word 'force' is something that is wrong. Sir, if people have understood what procurement means and what it involves, force is implied in the word 'procurement'. For the edification of the Members of this House I would like to read a few sentences from the report of the Famine Enquiry Commission in Bengal: 'A procurement organisation established by Government must, however, in the last resort depend on coercion'."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Nobody said that force should not be used at all but that it should be used against all sections of the people."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Of course the Government must employ force only against that section which is not willing to give up stocks. The Hon. Ministers of Government have made that statement and I have read that statement carefully. They said they would use force only in cases where people do not give up stocks and they also gave them time to surrender stocks. Sir, I am speaking as a consumer and not as a producer and I can very well understand the plight of the small producer."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You do not look like a man who consumes much."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, a great deal of criticism has been unnecessarily made and more attention has been directed to this statement which has been made by some Hon. Ministers and a great deal of time has been wasted over it. Sir, as quoted in the Report of the Famine Enquiry Commission the word 'procurement' involves force when people do not give up stock of their own accord and I do not think we shall be justified in criticising the Government if they are compelled to use force in order to bring out stocks that lie hidden."

" Then, Sir, another point that has been made is about the increase in prices. I am also one of those who feel that it must be made worthwhile for the producer to produce and give up what he produces for the sake of the community. To make it worthwhile for the producer, various suggestions have been made and some of them I feel rather rash, such as to give Rs. 8 or Rs. 5 more per maund. It is of course easy to make suggestions when we are not required to administer or carry out those suggestions. But, as the

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Hon. Minister for Food has stated, even the small bonus that is given cost the Government about Rs. 1½ crores. It is not also the cost that matters but when time after time the Government of Madras approached the Government of India for permission to increase the price of foodgrains the Government of India have turned it down on the ground that the price would form part of an All-India policy. I am not a financier, but I understand it is the fear of inflation that makes the Government of India oppose any increase in price. But, may I suggest to the Government, that they need not give this increase of price in cash and let them give it in kind. There are various methods in which they can give in kind and they have themselves realised that they can give it in kind. If necessary let them give half the bonus in the form of manure. I would ask them to take charge of all the manure in the province, all the available improved seed they have and all the agricultural implements and let them themselves distribute to the ryots in proportion to their holdings in order that they may produce more. I would suggest if necessary a portion of it may be treated as a loan to be collected after the harvest and the balance, to the extent to which they are convinced that a higher price can be given to the grain, that portion can be treated as a bonus given in kind. I think some such method is necessary; otherwise worse times are ahead next year in this province. Our population is growing. The hon. Mr. Ibrahim took exception to a statement on the growth of population in the Hon. Minister's statement. Whatever may be our population, which is 53 millions, it was 49 millions in 1941 and we are likely to grow, there is not enough food to go about for this growing population and so something must be done to meet the situation. That can be done only by giving a bonus in kind. Sir, this kind of giving bonus is not a new thing. In England they have been giving the farmers in kind bonuses and subsidies in kind. Then by giving bonus in kind, Government will also be ensured that it is utilised for the purpose for which it is made, as if it is given in the shape of money, it may be frittered away and may not be used for the purpose for which it is paid.

“ Sir, there is another point I would like to mention in this connexion. I do not know on what basis these prices have been fixed. I have an example in the Bellary district. The Tahsildar of the Rayadrug taluk went and procured 500 bags of ragi, because that was the ragi harvest time. The price fixed for ragi for that district was Rs. 5-8-0 per imperial maund of 41 seers, but in the neighbouring district of Kurnool, the price fixed is Rs. 6-8-0 and that in a little portion of Mulakalnur taluk which is in the Mysore State through which one has to pass to go to Rayadrug, the price fixed is Rs. 6-8-0 per maund. How could you fix Rs. 5-8-0 when within a few miles if a man walks either stealthily or openly, he can get a rupee more. When the Collector of the district represented the matter to the Board of Revenue the Board turned it down and I do not know, how the Tahsildar could procure the 500 bags in such circumstances. I quote this as an instance to show that in fixing

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prices, various factors pertaining to the locality should be taken into consideration and one price for the whole province, or even one price for a whole district, sometimes works great hardship to many of the ryots. I would therefore like the Hon. Minister for Food to look into this aspect of the question also and see that the procurement operations are not hindered by these obstacles placed in the way of procurement officers.

"Sir, I am also sorry that the Government are rather too slow to move. Because, Sir, as yet the 1947-48 procurement programme has not been announced. In my district of Bellary and in Anantapur the harvesting of *Korra* will take place within a fortnight, but no procurement programme has yet been announced. If therefore the procurement programme is not announced and the officers are not given definite instructions, the grain will pass into the neighbouring State of Hyderabad where people are hungering for grain. I would like the Government to look ahead and plan even in regard to procurement operations as I want them to plan for production operations. I would like to point out another instance. There is a place called Gooty, where after paddy was harvested there was no procurement organization to take charge of the paddy that was available. The result was the paddy went into the neighbouring district. Then I had to complain to the Hon. Minister that because there was delay the whole of the paddy left the taluk. The reason given was that some co-operative stores were entrusted with the procurement operations and they had not got the necessary financial support in order to take charge of the grain and so they could not move in the matter. What I would bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister is whether it is co-operative or any other agency, if there is any organization which is inefficient in the matter of procurement, let them scrap it and let Government take into their own hands procurement operations without any delay. Otherwise, any delay in this matter will recoil on us at a later date. It is because we were not very strict in procurement at the time when the time for procurement operations was propitious, that now the poor Hon. Ministers have to go about the country begging people to part with their stocks. No doubt the regulations and rules made by Government in regard to foodgrains are quite good but they must be properly enforced and in proper time. If that had been done we would not have been in the position in which we are now. I would even go to the extent of saying that if any procurement organization is efficient but is not in possession of necessary funds, let the Government find funds for it and I know there are many such organizations like that. I know many co-operative stores are quite good for procurement but in order to get funds they have to approach the District Banks which again have to go to the Provincial Bank and in this process there is bound to be delay and the delay of a week or fortnight in the matter of procurement operations means so much."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I hope the hon. Member will be finishing soon."

3-45 p.m. SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Yes, Sir, I am coming to the end of my observations. The district of Anantapur produced

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about 18,000 tons of groundnut-cake, but the quantity assigned for the district is 3,000 tons. I do not know on what basis this is done. They require at least 6,000 tons in order to bring their wet land under cultivation. All this I am afraid, Sir, with due deference to the members of the Government, is due to the fact that food and agriculture are not under one Minister. I know, Sir, in the Central Government a Committee went into this question of combination of food and agriculture and they have produced a report. I feel, Sir, that a combination of these two departments is necessary to get over this food crisis.

“ Then, Sir, the Hon. Minister announced a bonus for millets, though it was a belated announcement. I would like to know from him why those that gave their millets, especially small holders, before September 1st should be deprived of the bonus while those that give after that time should be getting the same. He announced at Kurnool that he had decided to give bonus to people who hand over their millets.

“ As you said, Sir, I have many points to refer to but as you have restricted my time, I would like to mention only one fact about the restriction of growth of commercial crops in the districts. In your district of Chittoor, according to statistics the acreage under sugarcane rose from 8,000 acres to 17,000 acres in Chittoor taluk. I had occasion to tour in some districts owing to the kindness of the Hon. Minister for Industries. I was anxious to know the state of affairs and in the district of Anantapur 60 to 70 per cent of the land is now under groundnut cultivation and unless some method is found, either by rotation of crops or restriction of the acreage under commercial crops, it is bound to spread in the whole country. As my hon. Friend Veerabhadraswami pointed out, the ban on the cultivation of tobacco should not be lifted. It should be imposed and more stringent measures should be adopted this time. We should treat this as a time of war. We should take all possible stringent measures to feed the population and we cannot afford to be feeding the people much longer on 8 oz., Sir, any more. The nation will go to dogs under this state of affairs. We have suffered enough. In the City of Madras, now even the two ounces of cholam is not given. It is a well-known fact and I do not blame the authorities because they have no stocks of cholam. How long can poor people, the labourers and the non-labourers, continue to live on this 8 oz. or 10 oz. ration? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ You are taking away Sri Bhima Rao's time.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ The Hon. Minister for Food knows my views on informal rationing and I am against its removal and I am much more against the removal of rationing in surplus districts or in municipal towns. I thought, Sir, he had given up the idea, but in the end of his statement he says that the Government are seriously considering this matter. Let us remember always what happened in Bengal.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ It only means that if they could afford to do it.”

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* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ When the country is more prosperous it will be time for the Government to take up this question. I would request the Hon. Minister to give more consideration before he decides to give up this informal rationing in surplus as well as deficit districts.”

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ In the few minutes that have been allotted to me, I hope to do justice to three or four points out of the 12 that I have noted down and on which I wanted to speak on this occasion.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ You may take one minute for each point.”

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ I do not want to do that. I shall give up half a dozen points if I could do justice to four or five of them.

“ My friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao said that the procurement figures for the year 1947-48 in Bellary district have not been satisfactory. But so far as I am aware and from the talks with the district officers, I have gathered that so far as the millet position is concerned, we have secured 80 per cent of the target figure by 1st September and we hope to secure the balance of 20 per cent within this month and next month. So far as the millet position is concerned, I think there will be no anxiety from 1st November 1947, but these factors vary from district to district and it is better that the Food Minister consults the Food Councils at the end of November and secures the figures and facts, for as my experience in December last year shows prices in the villages are cheaper than those that prevail in the ration depots. You can very well say then that you may stop this informal rationing in the villages. That is what was done on 1st January of this year and by the 15th the informal rationing in the villages was stopped because there was plenty of millets. In my district of Bellary, about 80 per cent of the people eat millets and about 20 to 25 per cent rice.

“ Then coming to the next point, we always depend upon the circars and upon Kistna district in particular, for our rice. We have got 20,000 acres of wet lands in our district and generally two-thirds sugar and one-third paddy are grown. This year somehow it resulted in one-half sugar and one-half paddy. I do not know on what considerations the ryots have cultivated 50 per cent with sugarcane and whatever it be, since 20 to 25 per cent of the population consumes rice, we depend upon imports. I am speaking of the person who has no land and who has to pay the price of paddy out of his salary. It is from his point of view I would appeal to my friend to reconsider his position with regard to the amendment that he has raised and tabled today in this House. We, who are of aristocratic birth can purchase in the black-market but the ordinary man who gets Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per month, the teacher, as one lady member spoke of, whose salary is less, how can he pay if Rs. 8 per maund is to be given. The Madras measure

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at present costs Re. 0-9-6 and if the amendment of my hon. Friend is carried the poor man, the middle-class man in Madras will have to pay Re. 0-11-6. How could they? The price of other commodities should also be brought down. If the price is increased, to whom does it ultimately go? It does not go to the cultivator who has laboured and toiled and got the produce, but it goes to the landholders who are now having the stock and have hoarded it and who are not giving it to the public. That is what my friend Sri Venkatachalamaji from Vizianagram referred to. If at all they are going to give bonus or subsidy, it should be given to the cultivator but now that the stock has passed from the cultivator to the middleman and to the landholder who is holding it back, is it fair that any increase should be given now? With regard to this point, I want to read a letter which the Hon. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Food Member of the Government of India, had written to Mr. K. G. Sivaswamy. I am reading from the proceedings of the Madras Provincial People's Food Conference held on 10th August 1947. He says :

'We had an informal Food Conference here on the 13th July and the Food Minister and the Food Secretary of Madras had come to attend that. The food situation in Madras was thoroughly gone into between my Food Secretary and the Food Minister of Madras. I have always been opposed to any rise in the price of paddy and I had resisted the demand from almost all provinces for rise in price. But it seems that circumstances forced the Ministry in Madras to make this announcement about a rise in price. The food situation is so critical that the Ministry succumbed to the temptation of announcing a rise in price in the hope that this will improve the procurement and thus avert the crisis. If it does succeed in improving the procurement it will be a blessing though I very much fear that it will not have the desired effect. The Ministry were also pressed by a number of M.L.A.'s to agree to the rise in price. It is no use now finding fault with it as the announcement has been made and we cannot go back upon it. I hope every one in Madras will help in the procurement because therein only lies the salvation of Madras. We cannot expect to have greater imports and although some provinces have promised extra quota for relief of Madras and Bombay, yet unless Madras helps itself, it will not be able to avert the crises. It is therefore necessary that everyone should forget the past and try his utmost to see that the province is able to meet its rationing liabilities and avert any breakdown in their rationing system and I am sure you will give the fullest co-operation in this.'

"In the Food Conference they have passed certain resolutions to the effect that the price should not be increased. I request my hon. Friend not to press his amendment so that rice may be available at a reasonable price to the ordinary consumer who has no land of his own to fall back upon."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—"The prices of other things like cloth have gone up by 500 per cent and more and how can one expect the price of rice alone to continue at the present rate?"

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"I know that some of these things have shot up but they are due to the blackmarkets. They should be brought down. That is the only solution, Sir, and that is the only way. I appeal to you as a brother belonging to a district which is importing rice from your district for the last four decades or so. We were getting 3,000 tons per month during the Advisers' regime but now though 1,500 tons per month have been allotted

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to my district, we are getting only 500 tons every month as against 1,000 to 1,500 tons allotted on paper. Not even 50 per cent of the quota is being received. A man like myself with children have to go without rice for two days in a week and on those days we have to subsist on millets or cholam. If a man like myself has to undergo this difficulty, what will be the fate of the poor man? I appeal to you, Sir, that you should not be harsh upon the poor consumer and the middle-class consumer. I would request the Hon. the Food Minister to see that the quantity fixed for each district is supplied in full. I see from the typed amendment supplied that your district and other sister districts have not supplied that quota which they ought to supply. I am a brother Andhra; I was born in the Andhradesa and the early portion of my life I spent in the Andhradesa though I am now in the Karnataka district. The Rayalaseema districts are not at all envious of the Circars and I would appeal to you to treat the Rayalaseema districts with equal affection and see that your quota that has been withheld, reaches our district. That is my appeal to you and I also request you to see that you do not insist upon increase in prices.

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“ There is one more point I wish to touch upon, because it has escaped the attention of other members of the House. After the advent of the present Ministry, within five days after they took up office on the 28th March 1947, they framed rules with regard to procurement and the very first clause is that no person shall sell nor shall anyone purchase food-grains except through the Collector of the district or to or by any person authorized by him in this behalf. During Mr. Prakasam's time, they made provision to the effect that the needs of the cultivator should be fully met. All his needs were defined as his needs in the matter of his own consumption as of his household, payment of rent, re-payment of loans and interest. Needs of the cultivator received primary consideration and it is for want of these things at present there is agitation. It is a well-known fact that for re-payment of loans he has to sell his produce to the village shop-keeper. When he in turn sells it to others he comes within the stranglehold of procurement rules. I can understand enforcement of stringent provisions in the case of those who deliberately defy the provisions of law and sell in the blackmarket. I agree they should be prosecuted. But these innocent people who sell what they receive by way of wages, must not be persecuted. They have to sell as they require things of daily use like kerosene oil, commodities such as salt, chillies and other things and it will not be fair to persecute them. After all, many people do not know these rules which are published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. I do not know if hon. Members are aware that many persons were charged for some trivial offences under the rules but the local courts acquitted them. But the Government preferred an appeal to the High Court who held on the 29th August last that when a notification is made everybody must be presumed to know and it cannot be pleaded in a court of law that anyone did not know

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that it was an offence. They imposed nominal fines of five rupees each. I would earnestly request the Hon. Minister for Food to look into this all embracing provision which has been introduced and see that innocent people are not persecuted in this manner. These poor people are put on an equal footing with black-marketers and big landlords who want to trade at fabulous rates in the blackmarket. It has to be remembered that it is they that are responsible for raising 95 per cent of the target figures that you have fixed; and they must not be harassed. In nine out of ten of these cases, the persons concerned are not aware of the stringency of the rules. Another appeal I make is that rationing should not be given up. One more point, Mr. President and I finish."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I would certainly expect the hon. Member to set an example to other hon. Members but not by begging for more time."

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"I will not beg for more time. In page 6 of the statement of the Hon. Minister for Food, he has stated :

'In other administrations, people in rationed areas if stock run out, could go out to non-rationed areas and buy what they can afford to, specially because produces are not rationed.'

My hon. Friend Mr. Venkatachalamaji also referred to the point. I pleaded for such permission in 1945-46 as these ration rules did not provide for it; but they refused. I do not know why this concession which prevails in other administrations should not be extended to this province so that we may make our own arrangements to get our requirements in an eventuality not in the black-market but at reasonable prices. I think that is a point which is worthy of consideration by the Hon. the Food Minister and I hope he will give favourable consideration to it."

* SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM:—"Mr. President. Sir, I cannot congratulate the Government on the terse, but dismal and sombre account of the food situation that has been presented to us by the Food Minister. It is true that the Hon. Minister has acted with vigour and imagination in correcting some of the mistakes committed by his predecessor, as for instance in superseding some of the inefficient and faction-ridden co-operative societies in the districts and reverting to the normal channels of trade.

"But it looks as though the Government have already made up their minds to discontinue rationing in the surplus districts and secondly, I gather the impression on reading the Food Minister's statement that Government are hesitant and half-hearted in spending money over food subsidies to the tune of 3 or 4 crores.

"The arguments advanced are fallacious and unconvincing, and I am bound to tell the Government that they are profoundly mistaken and short-sighted, if in the midst of the present difficulties they were to give up universal rationing or raise the price of foodstuffs to the consumer,

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“ Sir, there should be statutory rationing all over the villages and towns, both in surplus and deficit areas. That way only Government can husband the available resources of food-grains, eliminate wastage and prevent exploitation and blackmarketing, and it is in that way only Government can safeguard the interests of the poorer sections of the community, among whom the scheduled classes constitute by far the largest number. What a pity it is that Government here, as also in other parts of the world, are so half-hearted and grudging in spending money over the people's food and the other elementary necessities of life, in keeping the prices of foodstuffs and other things low by subsidies, while they are prepared to spend huge sums of money on armaments and war.

“ Sir, the food position in the province is perilous and precarious and it is clear that we cannot depend on outside supplies or any allotment being made by the Government of India. There is enough stock in the producing areas; only the hoarders are concealing the stocks and are seeking to get higher prices. I will give you one instance.

“ I gather in Guntur district, a rich and influential gentleman—influential with the Congress leaders—has concealed a large number of rice bags underneath his tamarind godown. This was duly unearthed by the rationing authorities who wanted to book a case against him but they were promptly told not to proceed by the higher authorities. Evidently political influences, the rivalry and jealousy in the ranks of the Ministerialist party are responsible for the available stocks going underground and not being procured for distribution. In such a situation, mere verbal threat of using force will not do. The Government must act with vigour in dealing with the hoarders and profiteers whoever they are and however high-placed they may be. They should not allow personal or party considerations to interfere in dealing with the defaulters, hoarders and blackmarketers.

“ So far as payment of a higher price to the producer is concerned, it is but fair when the price of other commodities have risen by leaps and bounds, that the ryot is given a square deal. Everything possible to the payment of a higher price than the prevailing rates should be done to get hold of the available stocks in the surplus rice-producing tracts.

“ I personally believe that if we can get possession of the surplus in the producing districts, there will be enough to feed the whole population of this Presidency.

“ To add to the difficulty, there is the refugee problem. I am not ungenerous or inhospitable when I say that we cannot entertain the refugees from the north at this juncture, and I should think the Government have been short-sighted enough in agreeing to undertake this responsibility. We have enough worries and troubles on hand and it will be a psychological blunder to allow

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people with such bitter memories and experiences to get mixed up with the people of the south, who have always lived in peace and amity.

“ Let the Government not merely threaten that they will use force against hoarders, but let them translate that policy into action without fear or favour; let them revise their policy of prices, bonus and subsidies; let them set the interests of the country and community above personal or party advantage; let them not shirk their responsibility, but continue strict rationing throughout the land, in both the villages and towns; let them rise above the petty personal jealousies and rivalries now so manifest in the ranks of the Ministerial party and if that is done I am sure, Sir, we can get over the present crisis, and the people can pull through with the enough grains that nature has given us.”

* SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. President, I had no desire to take part in this debate.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ But you gave me a different impression.”

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ That is why I did not give my name to you earlier; but my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, has drawn me out as usual with him. It is usual with him and every time he speaks he draws me out by some means or other. Similarly, it happened now and I thought it is only logical that I must ask for a chance to speak in this debate. It may be that the amendment is in order in a discussion which is likely to end in being talked out. It may be out of place in a discussion of this sort. As a ryot myself, and as one holding the opinions that he has expressed in his amendments, I thought his suggestions were all right. Whatever the amendments may be, the amendments may be put to vote or they may be talked out, it is immaterial to me. For the past two years we have been carrying on procurement. We have been supplying people with rice and other millets by procuring them in the country. When is this to end? Where is it to end? As we have heard, everybody in this House feels, and rightly too, that rationing should not be given up, whether informal or formal. Should there be no end to this? Are we going to procure with shackles and guns and threatening the ryots? Should there not be an end to this? Should not this rationing, at some future date or other, go? Should not conditions prior to rationing be restored in this country? It is sickening to hear in season and out of season the speeches on the food situation. We had the food debate last year, and this year we have it to-day. From the 13th instant, day in and day out, either at the party meeting or in the Assembly Chamber or in the Council Chamber we have been hearing these speeches on the food situation. It is sickening to see member after member rise and say that ryots are hoarding and blackmarketing and all that. Ryots may be hoarding. They may be blackmarketing. I do not deny that. There are ryots who blackmarket, but it is only small ryots, ryots of little

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means. (A voice : ' Question. ') You may question my statement, but that is the truth. Ryots sell in the blackmarket, and there are merchants to purchase in the blackmarket. People in Madras, not being sufficiently fed with the 8 oz. of rice, go about in the electric train or bus into the villages of the eastern portion of Chingleput district. They purchase rice at 1 measure or $1\frac{1}{2}$ measures per rupee. They carry it in small bags. On their way back in buses, the chowkidars catch them. They shell out a rupee or half-a-rupee to the chowkidars. In the electric trains, the railway inspectors catch them. There also they have to shell out a rupee or two. And in this way, rice is brought to Madras in order to supplement the 8 oz. ration. Where does this rice come from? It is from the millers. The millers are also the Government wholesalers. It is the Government wholesalers who purchase the paddy in the blackmarket, and sell rice. *Kuruvikarans* (*kadai* and *kaudari* hawkers) go to these millers, purchase 5 measures and 10 measures of rice, bring them to Madras, and sell it at Re. 1-8-0 of Re. 1-6-0 a measure. The curdman from the mufassal, instead of bringing curd, brings only a small quantity of curd, and keeps much of rice in the baskets. They come to Madras and profit more by the sale of rice than by curd. The milkmen who bring milk on bicycles for supply to the hotels keep milk in only one vessel and keep rice in other vessels. These people also sell rice. Where does all this rice come from? Is it from the ryot? No; it is from the millers. These millers purchase paddy in blackmarket. The wholesalers have rules that they should not purchase paddy without giving receipts for the money. But these millers purchase paddy without giving even the receipt forms. They purchase paddy at the village-site rate plus the bonus so that they may not be deprived of the bonus. That is the way things are done. Sir, as soon as bonus was declared by Government, many a ryot who sold his paddy to these millers ran up to me. They said ' the wholesalers who purchased paddy from us gave receipts without noting the serial number and without noting the dates; the Tahsildar says we are not entitled to bonus. ' They came to me as an M.L.C. But what am I to do? When I say it here you all disbelieve me. What can the Government do if I represent to them? Sir, this is the way things are going on. Sir, you are accusing the big ryot. The big ryot may hoard. It is not to sell in the blackmarket, not to earn higher bonus, but because it is the habit, it is the custom with big ryots to hoard paddy till they are sure of the next harvest. They will not care to sell paddy even for a higher price if they are not sure of the next harvest. On the other hand, they will part with their paddy at whatever price it can fetch if only they are sure of their next harvest. The Hon. the Food Minister is a big ryot. He knows the practice of big ryots. (Laughter and applause.) There is nothing for laughter. Of course, he was also accused of blackmarketing, but I know he is not a blackmarketer. I know him so well. I cannot believe these newspaper men who sell their newsprints in blackmarket. I have known during this war that certain weeklies and dailies have been selling their newsprints in blackmarket and making lot of profits.

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It is only these people who have accused the Food Minister of blackmarketing. There is no truth in it. The big ryots, in their anxiety for the future, hoard only a little, and they will release it when the next harvest is over. Now, from the harvest day up to the end of the year, the price is stable and steady because of control. It was not so in previous years. At the harvest season, the price will be Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 per cart, but later it will be Rs. 60 or Rs. 70. That is all now gone. From the harvest up to the end of the year the same price continues. There is no use of accusing the ryot of blackmarketing. He does not hoard to blackmarket or to earn bonus. Why not the Government increase the village-site rate? Of course, they have got their own difficulty. There is the Government of India, and there is the consumers' price. They must adjust and do things in the best manner possible. I have no complaints against them for not raising the price. Last year a bonus was promised for second-crop paddy and ragi. I know of instances where the poor landless cultivators cultivated ragi and went without any bonus, whereas the landholders got the bonus. These landholders sold ragi in the blackmarket at $1\frac{1}{2}$ measures and $2\frac{1}{2}$ measures per rupee and still got the bonus. In one village in my taluk, only 52 acres were cultivated with ragi. But the whole ayacut of the village was 116 acres. Fifty-two acres were ragi, and the balance 64 acres were not cultivated at all. The Government declared a bonus of Rs. 15 per acre. The ryots got only 5 and 10 rupees. The ryots had to sign or affix their thumb-impressions for the receipt of the money, and for that thumb-impression they got Rs. 5 and the rest of the money was shared between the officials. It was a shame for the officials. This is the way bonus is being given. Get rid of this bonus, and give us the village-site price a little more or include the bonus in the village-site price. As I told you, the wholesalers purchase paddy in blackmarket and give the bonus also without giving any receipt to the cultivator, because he has not got to go to the Tahsildar and others and wait for his bonus. Your wholesalers are blackmarketing, your retailers are blackmarketing and your officials are corrupt. Take the case of Revenue officials and Rationing officials. They connive at blackmarketing. I know instances of conniving. There is no use of complaining that the ryots are blackmarketing, that they should be shot down, and all that. If any ryot dumps his paddy in some place, or takes it by rail or by boat, then shoot him down.

“Then, Sir, with regard to Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu's amendment. I am not going to vote for this amendment. (Laughter.) He will twit me, I know, but it is not supported by the party. (Laughter.) However, I may tell the Government that his suggestions are eminently reasonable, and that they are worth carrying out. I would request the Government, I would request the Revenue Minister, the Public Works Minister, the Finance Minister and the Industries Minister and all of them to put their heads together and devise ways and means of introducing electricity in every nook and corner of the village for agricultural purposes. As I said, towns may wait. They have been benefiting at the expense

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of the villages. But in these days of rationing let them wait to get their fans, light, etc. Let all the electricity be handed over to the villager and let him be benefited by producing food products at a cheap price.

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“ Our hon. Friend talked about engines, pumps, etc. I have no faith in them. What is the price of engines? It is said that the Government control the price and supply engines to the ryots. One 10-h.p. engine costs Rs. 4,500. It becomes Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 9,000 as it changes hands. The ultimate purchaser has to get it at Rs. 9,000, not to speak of other accessories. Having installed engines and pumps, what are the working expenses? Crude oil, which is necessary for the engines, was selling at Rs. 30 per ton before the war and it was selling, during the war, at Rs. 300 per ton. I was in Amaravathi jail then. On my return from jail, I went to the Collector and drew his attention to this matter. He wrote to the B.O.C. agent about the high price of crude oil. But he replied that they were giving only the proper price; and the Collector said he could not interfere. That was the final reply received. There was no price fixed for the crude oil or cylinder oil by the Government.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ All that will be unnecessary if electricity comes.”

* SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ After the war, the price of crude oil was brought down to Rs. 108 per ton but now it was again raised to Rs. 165 a ton. And this is how the agents of foreign companies increase their price. And that is how these engines and pumps become useless. As for *kavalais* the bulls used to draw water are now sold at exorbitant prices. Bulls costing Rs. 200 before the war are now sold at Rs. 1,000; without the use of such bulls no water can be lifted. That is how agriculture works. If you are going to disbelieve and twit the ryots, you cannot get proper cultivation. Of course, Government will say, ‘ if you don’t cultivate, we will take away the lands from the ryots.’ By all means let legislation come.

“ Now, Sir, the only thing that should be done, if procurement is to be advanced and if more should be produced, is that electricity should be taken to every village. There is no use in giving half grants for digging of wells, as 25 per cent of that goes to officials. (Laughter.) There is no use of digging wells, unless the wells now sunk under the Government grant and those already existing are fitted with pumps. If they are not given pumps and electricity, there is no other solution for the food scarcity.”

* S. K. SHAIK ROWTHER SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words in connexion with the discussion of food situation. The statement of the Hon. the Food Minister is not encouraging and the proposed policy of the Government to discontinue rationing in rural areas will cause great hardship to thousands of labourers

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in rural areas who are not permanently employed in agricultural operations. It is well known that the procurement of foodgrains through producers-cum-consumers' societies is almost a failure in many places due to inexperience and inefficiency of the societies. I request the Government to create circumstances favourable for normal channels of trade to function in the field of procurement and distribution. There would be no harm in entrusting procurement and distribution to normal trade channels provided the Government decide to continue rationing with price control. The difficulty here arose really because the prices of foodgrains were controlled, but not the cost of production, the wages and the price of other articles required for cultivation.

" I am afraid that one of the reasons for the failure of procurement was the inadequate fixation of prices for the foodgrains. The prices fixed was not equitable in view of the high cost of living. A better price should be fixed and in this matter the Local Government should be able to persuade the Central Government to be allowed to fix a higher price. When the Central Government paid higher prices to foreign producers, I could not understand why the Central Government should interfere and prevent the Provincial Government from paying increased price to procure foodgrains to avert starvation.

" According to the statement of the Hon. Food Minister, the average annual production in the pre-war period was 4.6 million tons of rice and 2.9 million tons of millet, totalling 6.15 million tons. The average annual imports for the same period were 381,000 tons of rice, 12,000 tons of millets and 64,000 tons of wheat and wheat products, totalling 457,000 tons. Deducting the seed requirements, the quantity available for consumption actually amounted to 7.7 million tons. The import gradually decreased but we need not take that into account, when we consider the quantity required at the present rate of rationing of 12 ounces. Let us see whether the foodgrains produced in the province alone were sufficient for giving a ration at 12 ounces. The total quantity available when the ration was 16 ounces was 7.7 million tons. The population of the province in pre-war period was about 5 crores; and taking into account the annual increase of 1 per cent in the population, the present population may be about $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores. The quantity produced in the province is sufficient to give a ration at the rate of 12 ounces even though there is a slight increase in the population and imported quantity very much reduced. We require only $5\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of foodgrains, an amount less than what is produced in the province. It is clear from the above calculations that the deficit is due to failure in procurement and from nothing else. One of the reasons for the unsatisfactory procurement is due to the unwillingness of the producer to part with his surplus foodgrains. We could not entirely blame the producer for taking up such an attitude. He is getting only a very low price for the foodgrains produced by him, while he has to pay

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more for his requirements such as cattle, cattle feed, agricultural implements, etc. The price fixed for paddy at present is only double of what it was in pre-war days, but the price of articles required for cultivation now is four or five times what it was in pre-war days.

“The Government have done nothing to check the rising cost of cultivation and soaring price of consumers' goods. Further the low price of paddy and other grains compelled him to produce more commercial crops such as tobacco, sugarcane, etc., which fetch him a higher price. Consequently the area under foodgrains cultivation considerably decreased. As an inducement to produce more foodgrains it is quite essential to fix a higher price for foodgrains and also the Government should undertake necessary legislation for regulating the growing of commercial crops compelling every ryot to set apart at least 50 per cent of his holdings for raising foodgrains.

“Sir, my suggestion is that the Government's proposal to discontinue rationing in rural areas should be postponed till the crisis is over. Hon. Food Minister in his statement states that the Government cannot undertake the feeding of the people and steps should be taken some day, sooner the better to restore as far as may be the normal channels of distribution. But the Government should not disown their responsibility to feed the people until the crisis is over. I therefore request the Government not to discontinue the rationing in any place whatever until better time comes. With these words I finish my speech.”

* SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“Mr. President, Sir, I apologise for not sending my name to you.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I think you may proceed with your speech straightaway.”

* SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“I had no intention of taking part in this debate at first. I was in the position of Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar. It was, in fact, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu's speech which induce me to say a few words, and it is for a different purpose from that mentioned by Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“You seem to have done a good piece of business, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu.”

* SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“The increase in price demanded by Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu found support from Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar; and in fact, my hon. Friend said it was very good thing to raise the price. I say, it is a very bad thing to do so. And I will say why, in a few words. Any increase in price the Government of India will not make without inquiring into the real implication of it; and they would hesitate a great deal to increase the price of an essential food commodity. Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu calculated that the increase proposed by him is as much as 33½ per cent on the present price level, and it will amount to Rs. 2-8-0 on every wage-earning family per

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mensem. I ask, 'where is this money to come from?' The real effect of an increase in price will be a reduction in the real wages paid to the wage-earner. We know what will be the result of such a reduction in the real wages. I submit that an increase in price will set in motion all the evil effects of inflation. The so-called spiral of increased price and increased wages, one following the other, will be set in motion, if an increase in the price of food is agreed to. The immediate effect will be this: the labour population, I mean, the workers will certainly demand an increased wage, and there will be labour unrest, and we know what will be the effect of labour unrest. I find in the budget prepared by the transport department there is actually a provision of three lakhs for a contingency of labour strike. If in a single city like Madras, for an anticipated labour strike, 3 lakhs is provided, what would be the total amount required to provide for a strike among all sections of labour throughout the presidency. Sir, it was represented as though the Government of India was a bad government standing against the reform proposed by the Provincial Government, and my hon. Friend, Mr. Ibrahim went to the extent of theorising about provincial autonomy. I submit if the Government of India oppose any increase in price, they do so on solid, economic grounds; they are looking at the question on an all-India basis, and it will be a bad thing for the country if an inflation is set afoot with all its evil consequences. I submit the seven crores which is supposed to be the cost by way of bonus will be nothing compared to what the country will have to face if an all-round inflation takes place.

" May I then say a word about the hoarding of grains. I heard my hon. Friend, Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar advancing ingenious arguments to show how hoarding is different from blackmarketing and all that. Sir, we know, the immediate food question can only be solved by bringing out hoarded grains; and what is the method by which it can be brought. Sir, he suggested an increase in the prices. That I submit is not the correct way. It will merely set afoot as I said a demand for increasing wages with all its attendant evils. I submit that the method proposed by the Hon. the Premier that force where necessary must be used is the correct procedure and when he said that he would be prepared to use force in order to make people who have got grains come out with them, I am sure it was welcomed by the public. I may mention here, Sir, that the Government was never so popular, never so much applauded, as when the Premier said that he would be prepared to break the locks and open the doors and get the grains and I can assure him that the country and public opinion will rally round him if he translates his words into action. Let it not be said against him that he uttered an empty threat.

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" Then there is this long-term question regarding the food policy. The Hon. the Food Minister has stated that there should be a re-orientation of the Grow More Food policy and that it

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should be pursued with vigour. He has not said what that re-orientation means. Does it mean that there should be State farms? Does it mean that there should be big and large scale farming? If he did mean that, there is great and ample support for them in the Congress Election manifesto in which all these things are mentioned. He has said here that all the talks will come to an end and we shall be in peril. Big words and words of caution! There is no doubt we shall be in peril. Perusing the statement supplied to us, I find we are already in peril; not only shall be, we have been in peril for some time. Some longterm policy must no doubt be devised and we have heard members mentioning co-operative farming, the introduction of electricity and all that. I do not want to cover the ground already covered by the hon. Members. But there is one suggestion which I wish to make to the Government and that is a tax on idle lands. When I suggest this I am on good ground and also it is a very good socialistic policy. A man who keeps land idle and uncultivated must pay a tax which should be rather penal. It may be said that as there is no income from the land it should not be taxed. But I ask, Sir, when a man keeps land uncultivated why should he keep the land? I say let the tax be high and let the Government take the land if he cannot pay the tax. This idea of taxing vacant sites in which there ought to be good buildings, which is similar to the idea of vacant lands which ought to be cultivated being taxed, has been introduced in Australia under a Socialist Government and has been found to produce very good results. A man who has got a site ought to put up a building on it and ought not to keep it vacant. If he cannot put up a building on it he must offer it to a man who can put up a good building on it. Similarly a person who has got a land which he keeps uncultivated does an anti-social act and the Government should not hesitate, I submit, to put a heavy tax on such lands.

“As I said in the beginning, Sir, I wished to cover mainly the point about the price and I have submitted that the Government of India are right in refusing to increase the price of food.”

SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI:—“అధ్యక్షా, రైతులకు నేడ్యం ఖర్చులు ఇతర పదార్థముల వెలు పెరిగి కుటుంబ పోషణకు ఖర్చులు జాస్తి అయి వ్యవసాయము వలన వచ్చు ఫలితము ఈ ధరలనుబట్టి అనుకూలముగా లేదు. కాబట్టి రైతు లాభకరమగు వ్యాపార సంబంధమైన వంటలు పెట్టుటవలన అతనికి జాస్తి లాభముగా యున్నది. అహార ఉత్పత్తి జాస్తి కావలసినదే కానీ భాగ్యమునకు ధర పెంచు చేయవలెను. లేని యడల రైతుకు ఉత్సాహము ఉండదు.

“రైతుకు కంట్రోలు వెలకు నేడ్యమునకు కావలసిన ఇనుము, ఎరువులు సప్లయ చేయుటకు కావలసినంత రావడములేదు. అందువలన గవర్నమెంటువారు కూడా సప్లయ చేయుటకు వీలులేకుండా యున్నది. నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలో మొట్ట మూగాణి లక్షల ఎకరముల సాగుబడికి 2,000 కర్షకులమాత్రం సప్లయ చేసినారు. ఎరువులు కూడా చాలినంతలేవు గాన వాటి సప్లయకూడా వీలులేకవున్నది. రైతులకు బోనఫైలో

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సఖంతు వేరుశనగ పిండి వగైరాలు, తక్కిన సఖంతు ద్రవ్యములన్నియు ప్రకటించారు. ఎరువులకాలకు పోయినతరువాత ఇచ్చికూడా లాభంలేదు కనుక బోసస్కు అంతా ద్రవ్యముగా యివ్వవలెను.

“రైతులు పశువుల కొట్టాలకు జింకి రేకులు కావాలని కోరితే యిచ్చుటకు వీలు లేదని చెప్పుచున్నారు. కాని పొగాకు బారెలకు, పట్టణములలో జరిగే ఎగ్జిబిషన్లకు కావలసినన్ని టన్నులు సప్లయి చేయుచున్నారు. సిమెంటు రైతుకు కావాలంటే కొరుకుటలేదు. కట్టణములలో దొరుకుచున్నది. రైతులకు ఇచ్చుబండి పట్టాలు ఆ జిల్లాలో స్వాక్రమండు అంగళ్లకు వేయక మద్రాసులోని అంగళ్లకువేస్తే ఒక జత పట్టాలకు ఎంత ప్రయాణ ఖర్చు అగ్గకో యోచించవలెను. పై విషయములను ఆలోచించి చూడగా గవర్నమెంటువారు రైతుల విషయములలో చాలా శ్రద్ధవహించవలసి యున్నది. రైతుకు ఏ విధమైన సౌకర్యములేక న్యాయమైన ధర యివ్వక థాన్య నేకరణ నిర్బంధముచేయుట రైతులను అసంతృప్తి కరచునుగాని జాస్తి సహకారికాదని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను.

“అహార పరిస్థితి చాలా క్లిష్టపరిస్థితిగా యున్నది గాన రూరల్ రేషనింగ్ పంట వచ్చువరకు నిలిపి పంట రావడముతోనే మలబారులో తప్ప తక్కిన ప్రదేశములలో లీసివేయవలెను. సర్వప్లస్ జిల్లాలో పట్టణములలోకూడా స్వాక్రమంట్రి రేషనింగ్ లీసివేయవలెను.

“1946-47 సంవత్సరమునకు నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలో ఉత్పత్తి అంచనా 156,000 టన్నులు వేసినారు. ఈ అంచనా పంటకుముందు వేసినారు. అవి వర్షములవల్ల, తెగుళ్లవల్ల రాలిపోయి పంట కొంతభాగము సఖం ఫలితము, కొంతవరకు 2/3 భాగము ఫలించినది. అందువల్ల ప్రాక్యూరుమెంటుకు వేసిన సంఖ్య నుమారు 70,000 టన్నులు వేసినారు. సరిగా వండవలసిన టూల్లు సంఖ్య తగ్గించుచు జిల్లా Food committee కోరియున్నది. 1947 వ సం॥ ఆగస్టు 31 వ తేదీనాటికి ప్రాక్యూరి అయినది 43,468 టన్నుల బియ్యము. జాస్తిగా ప్రాక్యూర్ మెంటు చేయుటకు వీలుగాకాని పుత్తరువులకూడా వేసియున్నారు. ఈ నెల అంత్యమువరకు ప్రాక్యూర్ మెంటు ప్రకృతికరముగా చేసి ఆవలకూడా అహారస్థితి విషయముగావుంటే అక్టోబరు 1 వ తేదీ మొదలు 3 వ తేదీవరకు డబుల్ బోసస్ గతసంవత్సరమువలెనే ప్రకటించిన యడల స్వంతమునకు పుండుకొన్న థాన్యముకూడా రైతు విడుదల చేయుటకు అవకాశము కలుగజేసినయెడల అహార పరిస్థితి క్లిష్టపరిస్థితి కొంతవరకు తొలగునని నా మనవి.

“నెల్లూరు థర్షల్ స్కీము త్వరగా పూర్తిచేసిన యడల జిల్లాలోని మెట్ట తాలూకాలలో అహార పుష్కతికి చాలా అనుకూలముగా యుండును. కాబట్టి ఈ థర్షల్ స్కీమును త్వరలో పూర్తిచేయించవలసినదిగా ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“I learn that the Government have got a Finance Committee to attend to at 5 o'clock to-day. Therefore we are forced to rise now. The House may sit at 11 o'clock to-morrow and finish this debate before lunch. I have got on my list the names of Dr. Tajuddin, Mr. Narayana Rao, Mr. Govindacharyulu, Mr. Ramanathan Chettiar, the Leader of the Opposition and then the Hon. Minister. If there is time left, Mr. Narayana Menon and Mr. Gopalakrishnayya may also speak.

[Mr. President] [19th September 1947]

I do not think it will be possible for me to take in any more names and I hope Members will co-operate with me and help me to finish the debate before lunch to-morrow."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is it the idea, Sir, that we may take up other subjects to-morrow? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" No. Only the Food question."

The House adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 20th September 1947.

